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Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*g*) that 'Government have no information', may I ask whether the Government have not got an Audit department or the Superintendent is not maintaining accounts and therefore whether it is not possible for them to give us the figures that have been asked for?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"It will be possible."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"Will they call for the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"Why not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I do not think the public benefit that will be derived will be proportionate to the extent of the trouble necessary in making the enquiry."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—"When the principle is admitted that there has been a loss in the working of the Mills in the Central Jail at Coimbatore, I do not know why the Government is so callous as not to call for the information asked for and place it before this House?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"My answer is that the public benefit that will be derived is not proportionate to the trouble that is involved in making that enquiry and furnishing the information."

Labour

Recruitment of labourers to Assam Tea estates from the Agency tracts.

*1445-A Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of people from each of the plains of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari districts who are recruited to each of the Tea districts in Assam and Bengal in each of the years of 1921 to 1928, both years inclusive;

(*b*) the number of people that have been recruited from each of the three Agency tracts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari districts for the years 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 for places stated in clause (*a*) above;

(*c*) the sort of control exercised by the Government on the labour recruiters;

(*d*) the number of labourers that have been allowed to repatriate in each of the eight years from 1921 to 1928, both years inclusive, from each of the Tea districts of Assam and Bengal to each of the Agency and plain tracts of the abovementioned three districts?

A.—As the hon. Member is aware 'Inter-provincial migration' is a Central subject.

(*a*) & (*b*) There is no control over recruitment for tea districts in the Bengal Presidency. As regards the tea districts in Assam, the recruitment is made in accordance with the provisions of

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the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, and the notifications issued thereunder The Act permits recruitment to the following tea districts of Assam called ' Labour districts ' in the Act :—

(1) Lakhimpur.	(5) Kamrup.
(2) Sibsagar.	(6) Goalpara.
(3) Nowgong.	(7) Cachar.
(4) Darrang.	(8) Sylhet.

The Government have no information regarding the number of persons recruited separately for each of the tea districts. Information regarding the number of persons recruited from the Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari districts is given below :—

For the year ending		Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavari.	
June 1921 ..	Agency ..	309	203	297*	
	Plains ..	1,145	1,619		
June 1922 ..	Agency ..	322	440	368*	
	Plains ..	679	1,403		
June 1923 ..	Agency ..	202	1,625	387*	
	Plains ..	584	1,298		
June 1924 ..	Agency ..	1,954*	1,888	740*	
	Plains ..		4,731		
June 1925 ..	Agency ..	3,072*	2,029	340*	
	Plains ..		3,782		
				Godavari. East.	West.
June 1926 ..	Agency ..	4,489*	2,510	133*	33*
	Plains ..		913		
June 1927 ..	Agency ..	6,740*	2,760*	154*	28*
	Plains ..		430		
June 1928 ..	..	2,360*	3,709*	153*	31*

The figures include dependents.

* Separate figures are not available for Agency.

(*c*) Under the Assam and Labour Emigration Act and the rules issued thereunder, employers in the labour districts can recruit labour only by means of garden sardars who must be persons employed in the estates for which they are recruiting and have to be authorized by certificates granted by their employers. In the recruiting district the garden sardars have to work under the control of local agents who must be officially licensed. The District Magistrate is competent to cancel the licence of any local agent who has not exercised due care in preventing misconduct on the part of sardars accredited to him or has failed to report any illegal act committed by any such sardar.

The supervision over garden sardars is exercised through the local agents under section 64 of the Act and condition 13 of the conditions to the notification No. 505, dated 5th September 1923, published at pages 570–571 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

(*d*) The Government have no information.

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" It has been said in answer to clauses (a) and (b) that there is no control over recruitment for tea estates in the Bengal Presidency. May I know why no control has been exercised by the Labour Commissioner and whether he has not even the necessary information on this subject ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " That is a matter of policy for the Government of India."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Looking at the table given, may I know what steps are being taken by the Government to exercise certain control over the recruitment of labour and also to alleviate the distress of the coolies that are working in those tea plantations ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As I said, it is a central subject and our duty is simply to carry out the policy of the Government of India."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Are we to understand that this Government have nothing to do with the labourers that are recruited to Assam ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " We have only to carry out the policy of the Government of India."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" May we know whether he will get the information from the Government of India ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " No, Sir."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government entertains any care for the welfare of these labourers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what the qualifications of these garden sardars are ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Notice, Sir."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" May I know whether this Government have nothing to do with the labourers ? What has the Collector to do in his capacity as Protector of Immigrants ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As I said already, the Government of India are to dictate the policy in the matter and we are simply to carry it out."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Collectors of districts are taking any care at all about these labourers, what arrangements have been made to take care of them and how those arrangements are working at present ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Notice, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if there are any arrangements by which the Government or their agents satisfy themselves that those who are empowered to recruit these labourers do their work properly and that the labourers go to Assam of their own accord ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Yes, there is the agency of the Collectors and District Magistrates."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what arrangements are made with reference to each district in this Presidency ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Notice, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : " With reference to this matter, may I know what are the functions of the Local Government ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " The functions are simply to carry out the policy of the Government of India."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to the appointment of garden sardars, may I know what are their qualifications and what are the rules relating to their appointment and whether those rules are laid down by the Government of India or by this Government?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " The principles are laid down by the Government of India and the details are worked out by us ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What are those details ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know exactly the conditions under which these labourers are recruited for Assam and the control exercised by this Government over the recruiting agents ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : —" With reference to the answer given in clause (*c*), may I know whether the licence was cancelled in any case where the garden sardar did not exercise due care in supervising the work of recruitment? May I know whether any licence was cancelled by any District Magistrate ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Have the District Collectors any staff under them to exercise control over those who recruit labour ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Yes, they have."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" What staff ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " They have got Tahsildars and other subordinates."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" So, the Government feel themselves satisfied that the Tahsildar goes and inspects the places of accommodation where these labourers are kept pending their transfer to plantations and that he assures himself of the voluntary character of the recruitment ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— **" Notice, Sir."**